Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A method for treating a patient having a liver disease comprising administering to the patient an amount of IFN-alpha 5 or a nucleotide sequence encoding IFN-alpha 5 that is effective to treat the disease.

12. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the liver disease is chronic hepatitis C.

13. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the liver disease is cirrhosis of viral origin.

14. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the liver disease is hepatocellular carcinoma.

15. (New) A method according to claim 11 comprising administering to the patient a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (New) A method according to claim 11, comprising administering to the patient a recombinant protein comprising said IFN-alpha 5.

17. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein said recombinant protein is prepared by cloning an expression vector in a procaryotic host organism.

18. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein recombinant protein is prepared by cloning an expression vector in *E. coli*.

19. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein said recombinant protein is prepared by cloning an expression vector in a eukaryotic host organism.

20. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the eukaryotic host organism is *Solanum tuberosum*.

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21. (New) A method for treating a patient having a liver disease, wherein the patient has a liver that produces lower than normal levels of IFN-alpha 5, said method comprising inducing synthesis of interferon alpha 5 in liver cells of the patient.

22. (New) A method for screening a patient suspected of having a liver disease, said method comprising assaying liver cells of the patient for reduced levels of IFN-alpha 5.

REMARKS

The above amendatory action is taken to make clear that the claims are directed to a statutory method for use of IFN alpha 5 or nucleotide sequences encoding IFN-alpha 5 in accordance with the provisions of 35 USC 101. The new claims contain recitations that correspond with recitations in the original claims and that draw support from the specification in the same manner.